

DR Rhode Island Department of Revenue
Lottery Division

February 15, 2023

The Honorable Evan P. Shanley, Chairman
House Committee on State Government and Elections
State House
Providence, RI 02903

RE: 2023 H 5382 (An Act Relating to Public Records – Access to Public Records)

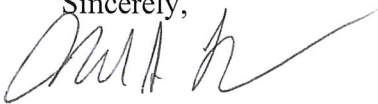
Dear Chairman Shanley:

I am writing on behalf of the Rhode Island Lottery to express concerns with the above-captioned legislation, which would exempt access to all records related to winners of Rhode Island Lottery prizes and/or games.

If a winner does not agree to publicity, the Rhode Island Lottery's current practice is to provide the winner's name and city or town of residence only upon a request pursuant to the Access to Public Records Act ("APRA"), without releasing any additional personal information. Further, the Rhode Island Lottery will contact a winner who wishes to avoid publicity to let the winner know that this limited information is being released in response to an APRA request. It is the Rhode Island Lottery's position that disclosure is necessary to ensure the integrity of our games, especially with respect to player confidence.

In the event of a significant win, there are legal remedies available to winners who wish to remain anonymous, such as forming a trust to claim the prize. While the Rhode Island Lottery is sensitive to privacy concerns, we believe that our current practice appropriately balances these concerns against the need to preserve the integrity of the lottery, which is of the utmost importance. For the above reasons, the Rhode Island Lottery has concerns with the legislation and looks forward to addressing these concerns together.

Sincerely,



Mark A. Furcolo
Director

cc: The Honorable John G. Edwards
Honorable Members of the House Committee on State Government and Elections

